

Attorney Docket No.: 9409/2112
U.S. Serial No. 09/077,173
Inventor: Communi, et al.
Filed: November 21, 1996
Amendment and Remarks In Response to Examiner Interview
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REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment claims 70, 74-80, 84, 89, and 93 are pending. Claims 71-73, 91 and 92 are canceled without prejudice to pursuing these in a continuing or related application. The claim amendments do not introduce new matter and a marked-up version of the claims showing where changes have been made is attached. Applicants thank Examiner Murphy for the interview of October 3, 2001 and his suggestions regarding claim language that would put the Application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submits that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request allowance of the Application by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney or agent would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the attorney of record at 617-573-0451, or Applicants' agent, Dianne Rees, at 617-573-0667.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 9, 2001

Dianne Rees
Dianne M. Rees
Reg. No.: 45,281
for Kathleen Williams,
Registration No. 34,380
PALMER AND DODGE, LLP
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 573-0100

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Marked-Up Version of Claims Showing Changes Being Made

70. (Amended) An isolated receptor which binds nucleotides, wherein said receptor comprises [has] an amino acid sequence [having more than 60% homology with the amino acid sequence] as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

74. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding [a] the receptor according to claim 70 [which binds nucleotides, wherein said receptor has an amino acid sequence having more than 60% homology with the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1] or a complement thereof.

80. (Amended) An antisense probe having a sequence fully complementary to an isolated nucleic acid molecule [encoding a receptor which binds nucleotides, wherein said receptor has an amino acid sequence having more than 60% homology with the DNA sequence] as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

84. (Amended) A method for determining whether a ligand can activate a receptor which binds nucleotides, wherein said receptor has an amino acid sequence [having more than 60% homology with the amino acid sequence] as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:
preparing an extract from cells expressing the receptor;
isolating a membrane fraction from said extract;
contacting said membrane fraction with said ligand; and
assaying said membrane fraction for increased receptor activity, wherein increased activity indicates that said ligand is an activator of said receptor.

89. A method for determining whether a ligand can specifically bind to a receptor having a preference for pyrimidine nucleotides over purine nucleotides, wherein said receptor has an amino acid sequence [having more than 60% homology to the amino acid sequence] as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:
preparing a cell which expresses the receptor; [and]
contacting said cell with said ligand; and
assaying the activity of said receptor, wherein increased activity indicates that said ligand is an activator of said receptor.